

HISTORY OF THE FELIPE DE NEVE BRANCH LIBRARY.
2820 W 6th street.

Realizing the need for a library in the vicinity of Westlake Park, Mr Perry, librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, interviewed Mr. Van Griffith, then chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners; Mr Perry, Mrs Socha, Mr Griffith and Miss Althea Warren then went out to Lafayette Park to look over the ground. The decision of the Park Commissioners was that only if the library Board would consent to build a \$100,000 building would they grant them a site facing Wilshire Boulevard.

The Library Board, therefore, accepted a site on Sixth Street instead.

The architect who designed the building was Austin Whittesley, the general contractor was Harry J Rinnert, 101 Robertson Drive, Beverly Hills, and the amount of the contract was \$29,655.00. The Electrical wiring was installed under a contract with the Construction Dept. of the City, at a cost of \$1,188.00; plumbing was also installed by the Construction Dept. of the City, at a cost of \$1,900.00. The heating plant, which cost \$1,183.00 was installed by the Pacific Gas Heating Co., Inc. The furniture contract was awarded to Yawman and Erbe Manufacturing Company, at \$4,857.65. The building was designed for a capacity of 25,000 books. The original book appropriation was \$10,000.

The building was built in the Spring of 1929 and was ready for opening July 1st of that year.

The following pictures show the growth of the building.

Pictures of Felipe de Neve Branch under
Construction taken by Ralph Whiting.



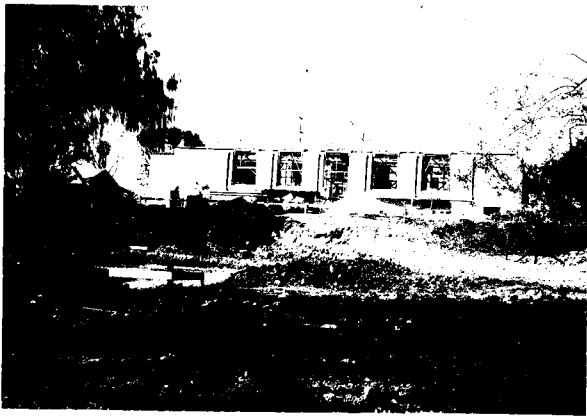
March 24 1929



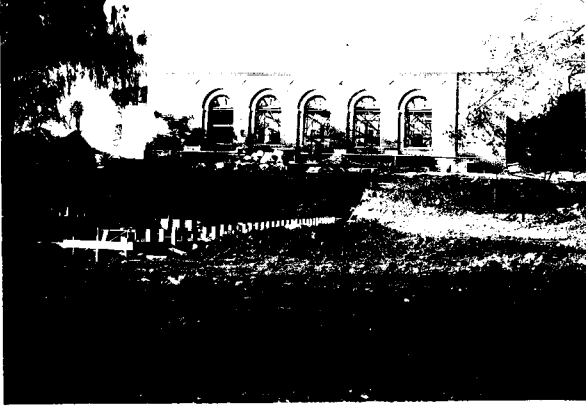
March 31 1929



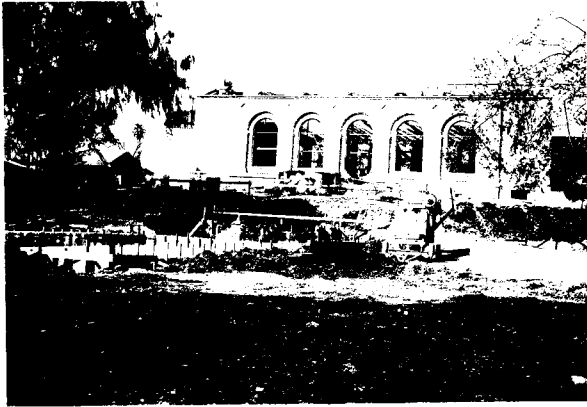
April 7 1929



April 14 1929



April 20 1929



April 28 1929



May 5 1929



May 19 1929



June 8 1929



August 11 1929

The Felipe de Neve Branch library was opened to the public on July 1 1929. The librarian was Jessie I Cavanaugh, who was transferred from the Vermont Square Branch to take charge of the library just opening.

The staff consisted of Evelyn Watkins senior attendant, Francis Gandsey, children's librarian and Caroline Bolen Smith, Junior attendant. There were also one half time page and one half time janitor.

The first month recorded a circulation of 6,569 books and registration of 647 borrowers. The library was opened from 9 oclock A.M. to 9 P.M.

The dedication of the Branch was not held until Sept. 4th. 1929 as that is the anniversary of the founding of the City of Los Angeles, the deed for which Felipe de Neve became famous.

The tables and chairs were re-arranged the tables moved into the alcoves and the chairs all faced toward the center desk. The speakers stand was just behind the desk and all the audience could face the speaker. Mr Ora Monnette, President of the Library board, conducted the meeting and speeches were made by Arthur Ellis of the State historical society, Judge Avery and others.

Dana Bartlett had very generously painted and donated the lovely landscape which hangs over the fireplace. Mr Thomas Williams councilman for this district accepted the picture in the name of the city.

About 400 persons were present at the dedication . Much color was given to the picture by the attendance of Mrs Dobson and her mother both dressed in early Spanish costume.

Mrs W.W.Stilson, of Cabrillo Chapter of the D.A.R. told of the placing of the Felipe de Neve Sun dial in Lafayette Park.

The dedication was attended by Everett R. Perry, city librarian, Althea Warren , assistant librarian and the entire library board.

Publicity.

The Library was fortunate to have a public spirited woman like Mrs Toretzky as editor of the local paper. She spared neither time nor space in her paper to put the branch library before the residents of the Westlake district. Our clipping book is filled with pages of library articles clipped from the Westlake News while she was editor.

Mrs Faith Holmes Hyers of the Publicity Department also gave of her time to publicize the branch in the metropolitan papers.

Posters were displayed in buildings giving library hours, etc.

The first year showed a total circulation of 118,235 books and the branch held 31 place in the branches record for the year.

Story hours had been held weekly. The first year demonstrated that this branch would be a branch of adult interests as the juvenile registration was small and the schools gave little or no cooperation.

In February 1930 Miss Frances Gandsey resigned as children's librarian and the vacancy was filled by Marjorie Davidson.

The year 1930 was a busy one as the library became better known and the registration and circulation increased.

October witnessed another change on the Staff as Mrs Davidson was transferred to Wilmington and Kathleen Adams was transferred to us from Ascot Branch to fill the vacancy.

We installed the Detroit charging system this year and find it very satisfactory. We have many elderly patrons who leave their glasses home and we have to write their card numbers for them but it started off very well.

Some of our traffic problems have been solved as a pedestrian crossing has been put in on Wilshire Blvd. and a stop signal in at the Hoov and Sixth st. crossing.

Statistics for the year 1930-31
Circ. 158,953...Gain 40,718...Place in Branches
26...Book stock 10,193 Card holders 8,543
Turnover...16.

1931-32

This year we made a gain in Circulation of 19%.

The book collection is growing and the Card holders continue to increase.

No additions have been made to our staff and we are feeling that the staff is inadequate.

The auditorium has been used for meetings of the Lovers of Shakespeare Club. This club planned and created the Shakespeare Garden on the terrace just back of the library and in a very imposing ceremony gave it to the city as a part of the Park system.

We made the start of our book review and travel talks this year. The attendance is good and we feel justified to try a more extended program next year.

Our first inventory was taken this year with a total loss of 76 books.

The General meeting of Children's librarians was held in our branch this year. It was a beautiful day and refreshments were served under the Big Tree at the end of the Pool. Two Japanese girls in costume gave a Japanese dance and sang their Doll song.

1932-33

The outstanding event of the year was the Book Gift Drive.

With the hearty cooperation of every staff member we secured over 1,300 books. Some of these books were not library titles, others were in bad condition and could not be used but on the whole the effort was well repaid and a splendid contact was made as we made many friends while the drive was on.

We had a change in our staff this year. Mrs. Evelyn Rich Watkins being transferred to Sidney Lanier and the vacancy being filled by Elizabeth Hickenlooper of our Library sch.

This has been a banner year with a total Circulation of 255,269 , a gain of 17,813 and 12 in place. and 1st in gain.

We have continued our plan of bi-monthly gatherings. One book review and one travel talk each month. The attendance averages about 40. We have been fortunate in having some professional book reviewers to review books for us. Mrs Edward Tufts who reviews for the Ebell Club and for Robinson's store has been generous with her time and Mrs Doris Cerf who is the reviewer for the Broadway.

Miss Hickenlooper has reviewed books this year for the branch and also over the radio.

The Juvenile work is making a normal gain Our work with children will of necessity be small as we have a large apartment house clientele and not many children.

The outstanding social event of the year was the meeting of the L.A.P.L. Library School Alumni annual meeting. The meeting proper was conducted in the ~~main~~ main room on Sunday P.M. Jasmine Brittain and Miss Helen Haines were the principal speakers. The room was crowded. Refreshments were served on the ~~1st~~ terrace.

Many things have conspired against us this year. The closing of the branch in the morning hours has made a decided drop in our circulation. We have also felt the lack of new books and magazines, the supply being smaller because of lower funds.

However, we have gained 433 cardholders over last year. The year has been busy and interesting.

Our group meetings have been held regularly with good attendance.

The outstanding event of the year was the Regional Meeting of Branches. The meeting was held as one of a series of Branch meetings to get the Branches of the same neighborhood together. Mrs Hook of the

Wilshire Branch was chairman. The group consisted of Pio Pico, Washington Irving, Echo Park, Memorial, ~~and~~ Wilshire and Felipe de Neve.

Mrs Leidendecker told us of Special libraries. Book reviews were given by Mrs Halvax, Miss Hickenlooper and Mr Humphreys.

Frayne Williams gave readings from Irish Plays.

At the close of the year 34-35 Felipe de Neve stood in the following relation to the 48 Branches.

Reserves.....	3
Staff turnover	4
Pay fiction.....	4
Fines	5
Adult reg.	5
Total new reg	6
Book turnover	7
Card holders	8
Circulation	12
Book stock	14

Comparative statistics for the standing of the Branch

Year	Circ.	Gain	Place	Gain P ₁ .	Bk. stock	Cd.holders	Turn over
29/ 30	118,235		31 31		6, 6,460	5,201	8
30/31	158,953	40,718	26	4	10,193	8,543	16
31/32	188,933	29,980	27	7	12,778	11,126	20
32/33	237,456	48,523	17	4	14,965	12,104	20
33/34	255,269	17,813	12	1	16,852	12,649	23
34/35	238,216	- 17,053	12	22	17,913	13,082	22
35/36							

Staff changes 1929-1936

Branch librarian

Cavanaugh, Jessie I

July 1 1929-July 1 1936

Librarian

Rich, Evelyn (Watkins)

July 1 1929-Aug. 1-32

Hickenlooper, Elizabeth

Aug 1 1932-July 1 1936

Children's librarians.

Gandsey, Frances

July 1 1929-Feb 14-1930

Byers , Marjorie (Davidson)

Feb.14-30-Sept 1 1930

Adams, Kathleen

Sept 1 1930-Oct 1 1934

Fraites, Mary(Horan)

Oct 1 1934-July 1 1936

Clerical library aids.

Smith, Caroline Bolen

July 1 1929-July 1 1936

Shuey, Natoma $\frac{1}{2}$ time

1932-Apr 1 1933

Marsh, Miriam

1933- ?

Timoor, Zephyr *mar 5-34*

? -July 1 1935

Raines, Florence $\frac{1}{2}$ time Feb 1 1935-Jul 13

full time

July 1 1935- July 1 1936

Reese, Selina

March 15-1936-July 1 1936

Staff changes 1936-1940

Branch librarian

Same

Librarian

Hickenlooper, Betty transferred
Feb. 14 1938
Hermann, Josephine Feb 15 1938-
Sept 15 1938
Cartinhour, Betsy Sept 15 1938-

Childrens Librarian

Horan, Mary transferred Oct.1 -
1936
Francisco, Oct 1-Nov 1
1936
Smith, Dorothy Nov 1 1936-
Dec 1 1936
Davidson, Marjorie
Dec 1 1936-

Clericals

Reese, Salina tr. Sept 21 1937
Berry, Viola Sept 21 1937
Smith, Caroline resigned May 3
1937
Yeretzian, Anoosh June 1 1937
July 1 1939
Raines, Florence resigned
April 1938
Koons, (Bucher) Frances
April 1938-
transferred April 1 194
Erro, Angela.. July 24 1939-
Knorr, Doris.. April 1 1941

Staff changes 1929-1936

Pages

De la Arena, Gertrude	July 1 29-Aug1 29
Fry, Jack	Aug 1 29-Sept 16-29
Raymond, Lloyd	Sept 16-29 Oct 1 29
Phillippi, Louis	Oct 1 29-July 1 34
Sullivan, George	July 1 34- ??
Hughes, Owen	? ? -July.1 35
Fetherstonhaugh, John	July 1 19 30 ³⁵ -June 1 36
Dawson, Henry	Jan 16 36-Jul 1 36
Brubaker, Jack	June 536- Jul 1 36

Janitors

Gonzales, Arthur	Jul 1 29- Aug 1 29
Apall, Joseph	Aug 1 29-Apr 6 30
Johnson, Julius	Apr 6 30-July 31 30
Powell, Archey	Aug 1 30 *Oct 1 31
Grant, Leonard	Oct 1 1931
Rhodes, Mack <i>sample</i>	? ? July 1 36

Staff changes 1936-1940

Pages

Maggio, Andy	Sept 1936-
resigned	March 1941
Allen, Charles	June 1937-
	July 1939
Lewis, Renwick	July 1939- Oct-39
Mitchell, Harper	Dec. 6 1939-Sept
	1940
Kimerlin, Phil..	Oct. 1940
resigned	April 8 1941
Franks, Paul...	March 6 1941
Henry, Joe....	April 10 1941
Janitors	Resigned Aug 29 1941
Cagle, Raymond	

Staff changes 1941-45

Children's librarian

Davidson, Marjorie transferred to San Pedro
Aug 4-1941

Field, Kate began at F de N Aug 4-1941

Transferred to Vernon Jul 1-

1942

Everett, Dorothy began July 1 1942

Clerk Typist

Alice Mahoney

Ann Cattell

Garrietta Gross..

Pages

Franks, Paul began March 6 1941

Kirsch, Robert " Adept..3 1941

Marshall, John about Nov 1941 to
August 1942

Sidney Rawson..resigned..

August 1942

John Hall Aug 1942-Oct 1942

John Sherman Aug 1942

Pat Brownell

Lois Longbrake

Janitor..Henry Young

Felipe de Neve Branch Library

Staff

January 1968

Branch Librarian

Helen V. Berger

Children's Librarian

Frances Tobol

Clerk Typists

Gertrude Himelfarb

Mabel C. Lawyer

Messenger Clerks

Philip Holland

Michael Tyndal

Neighborhood Youth Corps Enrollee

George Brooks

Janitor

Kenneth Strauthers

Felipe de Neve Branch Library

Staff

September 1980

Head Librarian

Hermia M. Justice

Young Adult Librarian

Eugene Estrada

Children's Librarian

Elizabeth Nelson

Librarian I

Maria Garcia

Clerk Typists

Luadrin Hunter

Oscar Monterosso

Library Clerical Assistants

Carrie Tamura

Charles Wike

Messenger Clerks

LaSanya Rucker

MaeFawn Lau

David Ligh

Cecelia Barrios

Custodian

Roscoe Hamilton

Felipe de Neve Branch Library

Staff

September 1983

Head Librarian

Hermia M. Justice

Young Adult Librarian

Carey Rowan

Children's Librarian

Anne Landon

Clerk-Typist

Oscar Monterroso

Messenger Clerks

Francine Mongalo

Nelson Ola

Norman Rodriguez

Custodian

Annie Valliant

Security Officer

Bernardino Rodriguez

Felipe de Neve Branch Library

Staff

September 1984

Head Librarian

Hermia M. Justice

Young Adult Librarian

Carey Rowan

Children's Librarian

Anne Landon

Clerk Typist

Oscar Monterroso

Messenger clerks

Francine Mongalo

Nelson Ola

Norman Rodriguez

Custodian

Annie Valliant

Security Officer

Bernardino Rodriguez

FELIPE DE NEVE LIBRARY

STAFF

September, 1986

Branch Manager

Hermia M. Justice

Young Adult Librarian

William Jestat

Children's Librarian

Albert Johnson

Librarian I

Michael Burkhardt

Clerk Typists

Yolanda Shephard

Alfonso Prothro

Messenger Clerks

Fráncine Mongalo

Rosa Ortega

Alexander Rojas

Kelly Wu

Custodian

Annie Valliant

Security Officer

Bernardino Rodriguez

Felipe de Neve Branch Library

Staff

April 1988

Head Librarian

Joyce Albers

Young Adult Librarian

William Jestat

Children's Librarian

Albert Johnson

Librarian II

Michael Burkhardt

Alice Dilsizolu

Clerk Typist

Linda Hill

Antoinette Hunt

Alfonso Prothro

Yolanda Shepard

Messenger Clerks

Jill Crane

Thang Lam

Francine Mongalo

Rosa Ortega

Jade Vuong

Security Officer

Irene Blandino

Custodian

Annie Valliant